

# East Palestine

## TRAIN DERAILMENT RESPONSE

Serving East Palestine, Negley, Darlington and surrounding communities

# NEWSLETTER

July 25, 2023



Truck being loaded with wastewater for transportation off-site.

## PROGRESS MADE

### Sulphur Run Sediment Characterization Work Plan Approved

EPA approved a sampling plan to detail contamination in Sulphur Run. This plan covers sediment sampling north of the derailment site down to the confluence with Leslie Run. The plan is available in the documents section on EPA's East Palestine website.

### Pleasant St. and Martin St. Paved

Crews finished paving in the turnaround area located at the intersection of Pleasant Dr. and Martin St. This and other pavement projects are critical for controlling dust and mitigating erosion in active work areas.

### Excavation of Car Scrapping Area 3 Nears Completion

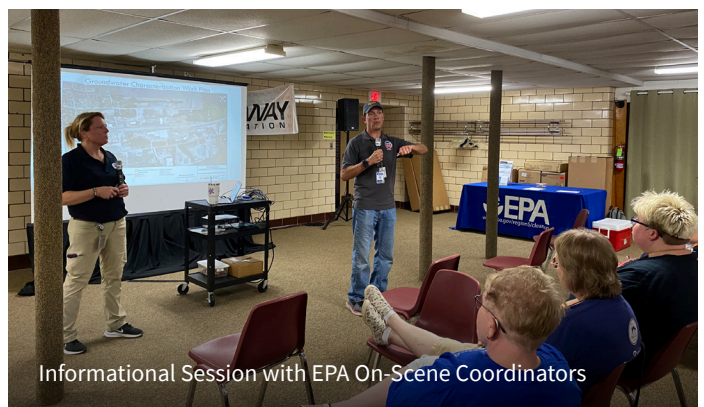
Excavation at Car Scrapping Area 3 is ongoing and expected to be completed in the next one to two weeks.

### Operations Update Informational Session

The Way Station and First United Presbyterian Church hosted another information session, with EPA providing a site operations update. EPA gave a presentation about ongoing work including excavating contaminated soil, air monitoring, and cleaning of impacted streams.



Progress shot of the now completed paving of the turnaround at Pleasant St. and Martin St.



Informational Session with EPA On-Scene Coordinators



## A LOOK AHEAD

### AT THE SITE

- Sampling of Car Scrapping Area 4 continues and preparations for excavation will follow.
- North Pleasant Dr. will be temporarily closed for the installation of additional sheet piling at Tank Farm 1, which is the area where the big blue lake tanks are located. This sheet piling will provide additional reinforcement and additional containment around the tanks.
- Wastewater and contaminated soil will continue to be loaded and shipped off-site for disposal at EPA-approved facilities.

### IN THE GREATER COMMUNITY

- Air monitoring continues, with 15 air monitoring locations that are checked daily and two roving air monitoring vehicles running daily.

- Additional sampling will begin in Sulphur Run per the Sulphur Run Sediment Characterization Work Plan.
- Daily sampling of water in Sulphur Run and Leslie Run is ongoing.



Sheet piling keeps the tracks stable while work continues.

## COMMUNITY CORNER



Source: New Galilee CommUNITY Foundation

### NEW GALILEE CARNIVAL

The annual New Galilee Carnival kicks off this Tuesday, July 25, at the New Galilee Community Event Center located at 606 Centennial Ave., New Galilee, Pennsylvania. Festivities include nightly bingo, live music, craft vendors, a parade, and an ice-cream eating contest. We'll see you there! For more information, visit [newgalileecarnival.com](http://newgalileecarnival.com)

### COLUMBIANA COUNTY FAIR

From July 31 through August 6, attendees can enjoy food, family entertainment, animal exhibits, homemade crafts and fare, exhibits, and more! The county fairgrounds are at 225 Lee Ave. in Lisbon, Ohio. Stop by our table August 4 and 5! For more information, visit [columbianacountyfair.com](http://columbianacountyfair.com)

## DID YOU KNOW?

### Park Drive Bridge Replacement Work – Ohio DOT

The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) will be replacing the Park Drive bridge (originally built in 1940) over Leslie Run, located near the entrance to City Park. Work will include burying a natural gas pipeline. Area residents may notice heavy equipment and road closures. This project is not affiliated with the derailment response, but air monitoring will occur as part of ongoing monitoring initiatives. For inquiries, please contact ODOT at [d11.pio@dot.ohio.gov](mailto:d11.pio@dot.ohio.gov) or call 330-308-7817. You can also contact Dominion Energy at [OhioConstructionSupport@dominionenergy.com](mailto:OhioConstructionSupport@dominionenergy.com) or call 800-362-7557.



Park Drive will be closed beginning on July 24 to rebuild the bridge over Leslie Run.

## TOP 3 QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

### 01 I heard there was some new data on dioxin, what does it mean?

EPA reviewed a presentation from an independent party offered at a recent community meeting that included confusing information. The high value highlighted, over 600,000 parts per trillion, was not the dioxin “toxic equivalency” (TEQ) value that is commonly used to compare soil data to appropriate standards, which is what EPA uses, and therefore the high values presented are not an accurate measure for risk. When looking at the TEQ value from the presentation, the concentration is elevated compared to typical background. However, it is common to have elevated dioxin compounds present near a roadway. EPA will be investigating further. To learn more, visit [epa.gov/trinationalanalysis/dioxins](http://epa.gov/trinationalanalysis/dioxins)

### 02 Will cleaning the creeks be the last action taken at Sulphur Run and Leslie Run?

EPA’s Order requires detailed identification (characterization) of contamination in Sulphur Run and Leslie Run. The stream characterization will include surface water and sediment testing for contaminants of concern including vinyl chloride and butyl acrylate. This stream characterization will find any areas of remaining contamination and inform the next steps for responding agencies. Norfolk Southern will continue regular testing of surface water from Sulphur Run to the Ohio River, and the East Palestine Municipal Water Supply will continue to be tested weekly.

### 03 Should I let my pets and/or children play in Sulphur Run and Leslie Run?

Until the stream characterization assessment is completed, and the results analyzed, recreational use of Sulphur and Leslie Run should be avoided. While surface water is tested every three days and has not shown any contaminants at levels that exceed health standards since May 1, further investigation is needed to determine what contamination remains in sediment. “Keep Out” signage is posted near Sulphur Run and Leslie Run.

## SITE STATUS CHECK

As of July 21



**NORTH TRACK:**  
In operation  
**SOUTH TRACK:**  
In operation



**LESLIE RUN:**  
Stream monitoring is ongoing  
**SULPHUR RUN:**  
Stream monitoring and washing is ongoing

## 26.2 million

est. gallons of wastewater shipped offsite



## 81,573

est. tons of solid waste shipped offsite



## SAFETY MINUTE

### Thunderstorms



Thunderstorms are a common occurrence in this area, but that does not mean they do not pose a safety risk. Lightning is a leading cause of injury and death from weather-related hazards.

Take an active role in your safety:

- Sign up for the Emergency Alert System (EAS) and listen to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) Weather Radio for emergency alerts.
- Prepare your home by trimming or cutting down trees that may be in danger of falling on your home.
- Consider buying surge protectors, lightning rods, or a lightning protection system.
- Secure your outdoor furniture.

Learn more about how to stay safe before, during, and after a thunderstorm by visiting [ready.gov/thunderstorms-lightning](http://ready.gov/thunderstorms-lightning)

**WHEN THUNDER ROARS, GO INDOORS!**



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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

EPA will have a table at the New Galilee Carnival on July 29 from 4 to 8 p.m. and a table at the Columbiana County Fair August 4 and 5 from 12 to 6 p.m. Information about the cleanup will be available as well as kids' activities including a button-making station.

## STAY INFORMED

EPA will be releasing weekly short videos called "This Week at E.P." to share what work will be occurring on site in the upcoming week. You can find them on our website under "Photos & Videos" or by scanning the QR code below.



## ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

This newsletter is developed through a joint effort of state and federal agencies and community organizations. If you would like more information about topics discussed, please visit [epa.gov/east-palestine-oh-train-derailment](http://epa.gov/east-palestine-oh-train-derailment) or call EPA's Information Line at **330-775-6517**.



**SCAN ME** for a list of additional resources